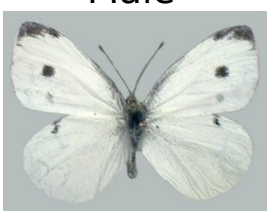
BUTTERFLIES OF FUERTEVENTURA

SMALL WHITE

Pieris rapae
all year
wingspan 32-47mm
also known as small cabbage white

Upperside of wing clear white with black wing tips, darker in male. One black spot in male, two in female on forewing, black spot on leading edge of hindwing. Underside of hindwing pale mustard-yellow

Male



Female

BATH WHITE

Pontia daplidice
all year
wingspan 45-50mm

Mottled black and white tip of forewing. Male has one black spot on wing, female two. Female has black spotted upper hindwing. Characteristic pattern of greenish blotches on underside of hindwing

GREEN-STRIPED WHITE

Euchloe belemia
Dec – Jun
wingspan 36-44 mm

White upperwing with black tip with white mottling, and black rectangular mark near front edge
Distinguishing green stripes on underwing.

GREENISH BLACK-TIPPED

Euchloe charlonia
Dec – Jun
wingspan 32-36mm

Upperwing very similar to green-striped white, but yellower, with black mottled tips and rectangular black mark on front edge.
Underwing much more regular green, not striped, with white spots

CLOUDED YELLOW

Colias crocea
all year
wingspan 46-62mm

Orange yellow upperwing with black tips to front and rear, and single black spot.
Underwing green

AFRICAN MIGRANT

Catopsilia florella
all year
wingspan 55-65mm

Wide colour variation from white to yellow. Uniform upper and lowerwing with one small spot and narrow black tip. Prefers imported shrubs and more likely to be seen in man-made resorts and gardens. Doesn't settle often, but partial to red blossom. Only recently colonised the Canary Islands

MONARCH

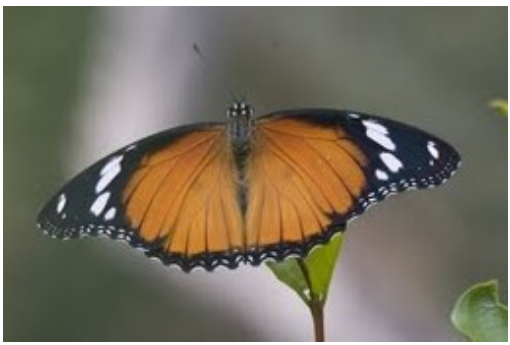
Danaus plexippus
all year
wingspan 89-102mm

A huge butterfly.
Body black with white spots. Upperwing tawny-orange, veins and margins black, with small white spots in margins. Forewing has orange spots near the tip. Underside similar but tip of forewing and hindwing yellow-brown, white spots larger. Slightly larger male has patch of black scales on hindwing, and narrower black veins

AFRICAN MONARCH

Danaus chrysippus
all year
wingspan 70-80 mm
also known as Plain tiger

Body black with white spots. Wing tawny, upperside brighter and richer than the underside. Tip of forewing is black with a white band. Hindwing has 3 black spots around the center and thin border of black enclosing a series of semicircular white spots.
Male smaller than female, but more brightly coloured with white pouch on hindwing, with thick black border which bulges slightly



RED ADMIRAL

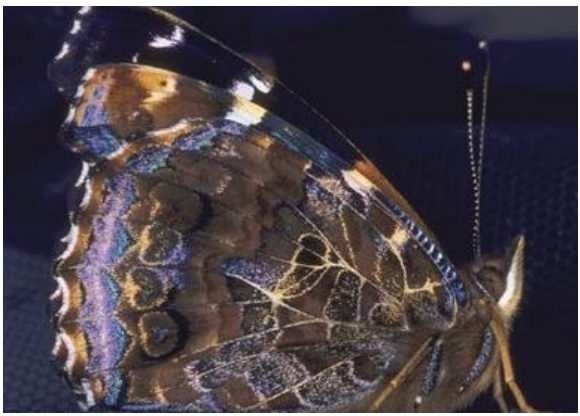
Vanessa atalanta
all year
wingspan 45-57 mm

Dark blackish-brown upperside of each wing crossed by bright red band, also on underside of forewing. Tip of upperside forewing black with white spots. Hindwing underside mottled grey, green when fresh

CANARY RED ADMIRAL

Vanessa vulcania
all year
wingspan 50-60 mm

Forewing black, margin ridged with little white spots at back. Broad, red area contains three black spots. Underside mid brown with bluish spots. Greyish blue margin. Hindwing black or dark brown, red area with black spots at rear.
Body dark brown or black.
Female and male identical



PAINTED LADY

Vanessa cardui
all year
wingspan 54-58 mm

Deep orange, black-spotted wing. Black tips with white spots. No white spots on orange areas. Hindwing has 4 small black eyespots at back, sometimes with blue centres. Strange pattern of flying in a sort of screw shape

GERANIUM BRONZE

Cacyreus marshalli
all year
wingspan 15-27 mm

Small bronze butterfly.
Outer margin of forewing has white dashes.
Hindwing has white band around edge, black eyespot and short tail.
Distinctive brown and white patterned underside with small eyespots.
Larvae feed on geraniums and pelargoniums

SMALL COPPER

Lycaena phlaeas
all year
wingspan 22-35 mm

Upperside forewing bright orange with dark outside edge and eight or nine black spots. Hindwing dark with orange border. Some females have row of blue spots inside the orange border.
Underside patterned in similar way but paler. Black spots on forewing outlined in yellow and dark colouring is replaced by pale brownish, grey. Hindwing the same brown/grey colour with small black dots and a narrow orange border

LONG-TAILED BLUE

Lampides boeticus
all year
wingspan 30-36 mm
also known as Peablue

Males have mainly blue upperwing, apart from brown edges. Females have only small amount of blue near the centre of the upperwing. Underside distinguished from short tailed blue by long white band.
Tail with 2 spots at the base. Rapid jerky flight usually more than 1 metre above the ground. Females stay close to the foodplant, males travel further afield. Males very territorial. Rest with wings closed or partially open

LANG’S SHORT-TAILED BLUE

Leptotes pirithous
all year
wingspan 24-26 mm

Upperwing brown, blue near body
Rippled underside with two distinct eyespots is absolutely characteristic and the same in both sexes.

AFRICAN GRASS BLUE

Zizeeria knysna
all year
wingspan 20-24 mm

Male upperside violet blue with wide dark marginal borders, otherwise unmarked. Underside pale fawn with marginal markings in slightly darker shade of fawn. Female upperside brown with restricted and variable patches of blue above inner margins of both wings. Underside as male. Associated with damp places such as irrigation ditches or drains. Always active and will alight to feed for only a very short time before flying on again

COMMON BLUE

Polyommatus icarus
all year
wingspan 29-38 mm

Male uppersides iridescent lilac blue with thin black border. Females brown with a row of red spots along the edges. Usually some blue at base of wing. Undersides greyish in males and more brownish in females with row of red spots along edge of hindwing sometimes extending onto forewing. About a dozen black centered white spots on the hindwing, nine on the forewing.
Males are often very obvious as they defend territories against rivals and search out females

DIADEM

Hypolimnas missipus

all year

wingspan 75-90mm

A very large butterfly. Male has dark velvety brownish-black upperwings with three large white spots on each side. Underside rich light chestnut flecked with white. White spot near tip. Female has three forms, one similar to the male but more brown with lighter rear wings and others similar to the monarchs with a frilly back edge. Underside pale tawny with frilled back edge.

Only an uncertain sighting in Fuerteventura

Male underside

Female underside